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GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND GEOLOGY

(PROJECT BRANCH)

NOTIFICATION

The 12th September, 2025

No.E977900/PJ6/320.- In view of the devastating floods affecting the State of Punjab and in exercise of the powers conferred by rule 90 of Punjab Minor Mineral Rules, 2013 made under Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (Central Act No. 67 of 1957), and all other powers enabling him in this behalf, the Governor of Punjab is pleased to relax the provisions of the said rules, whichever applicable, with a view to allow the farmers to remove and lift silt/sand and river borne material deposited on their agricultural fields, as a one-time measure, upto the 31st day of December, 2025 enabling the farmers to clear their fields and prepare it for the next sowing season. The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) given below shall be followed to achieve the said purpose:-

1. The Deputy Commissioners shall ensure that all farm owners/cultivators are informed through various modes of communication (through DPROs, DROs, announcements through religious places, social media, etc) of this time-bound, one time measure *'Jehda Khet, Ohdi Ret",* announced by the Government for allowing farmers to remove and lift the silt/sand/river borne material deposited on their fields due to submergence under flood waters, at their own level without seeking any permit/ NOC from the Department of Mines and Geology.
2. The removal of silt/sand/river borne material from agricultural land by way of this "one time measure" shall not be considered mining of mineral.
3. The concerned Deputy Commissioner shall declare the list of affected villages in a district where the operation of removal and lifting of deposited silt/sand/river borne material may be done by the affected farmers/cultivators/group of farmers affected by flood material deposition.
4. To mitigate the impact of the recent floods, all District Mining Officers as well as District Level and Sub-Divisional Level Monitoring Committees to prevent illegal mining, notified by Office Order No.5466/4M dated 10th August 2023, shall facilitate the removal and lifting of such silt/sand/river borne material deposits on the affected cultivable lands, without disturbance of the original ground surface by way of pits, trenches or otherwise.

5. The office of the District Mining Officer shall ensure that no such removal takes place from any approved regular river bed mines or out of river bed mines, i.e., Commercial Mining Site (CMS) or Public Mining Site (PMS).
6. The District Level and Sub-Divisional Level Monitoring Committees to prevent illegal mining, shall further ensure that no illegal mining of minor minerals takes place in the garb of the above notification.
7. Any dispute arising in the process of implementation of this notification shall be settled at the level of concerned Deputy Commissioner and his/her decision shall be binding on all the parties.
8. Any violation of the above directions shall be considered as unlawful activity and shall be dealt as per the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and Rules framed there under.

Sd/-
JASPREET TALWAR, IAS
Additional Chief Secretary to Government of Punjab
Department of Mines and Geology

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